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VICK'S

ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY

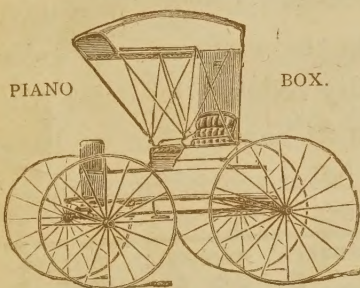
MAGAZINE.

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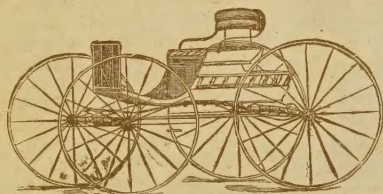
ROCHESTER, N. Y., JANUARY, 1894.

Volume 17, No. 3.
New Series.

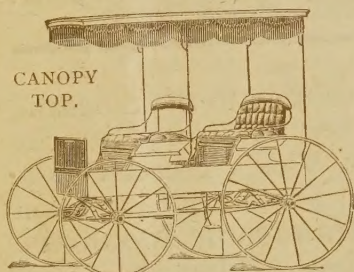


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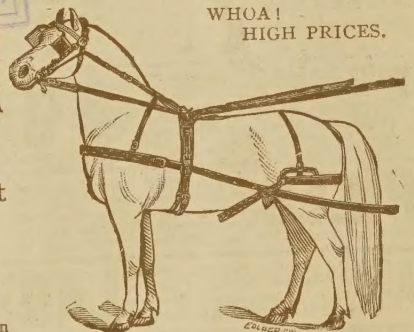
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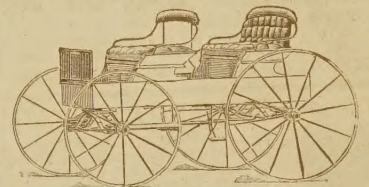
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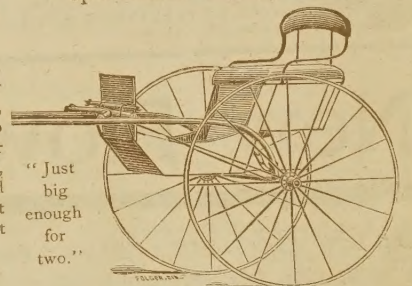


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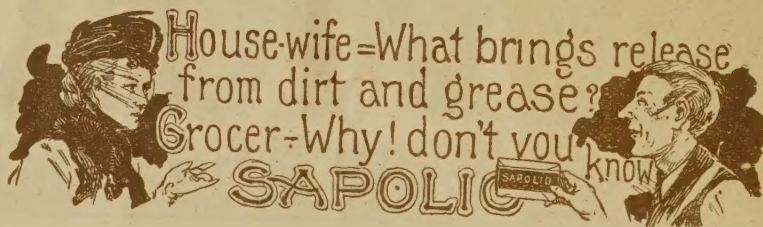
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New Flowering Plants.

In addition to the thousand and one fine plants described in Vick's Floral Guide, 1894, we now call attention to a few which are *new and meritorious*: Among the Climbers are **Two Handsome Ipomœas**. These are plants with Morning Glory shaped flowers, and are rapid climbers. "Ipomœa Goodellii" has long heart-shaped leaves and long flower stems, carrying clusters of beautiful flowers of rosy lilac color and with a deep shade at the center. Plant perennial, hardy at the South—in the Northern States can be taken up and stored away in the cellar, like the dahlia, and kept for planting in the spring. Seeds, per packet 20 cents; plants, each 30 cents; two for 50 cents. "Ipomœa Sinuata," another climber; leaves deeply parted, flowers pure white with purple throat. Easily raised from seeds or cuttings. Seeds, per packet 20 cents; plants, each 30 cents; two for 50 cents.

Dahlia, Ethel Vick. A novel color in dahlias—the purest pink. One of the *handsomest dahlias ever offered* by the trade. A strong healthy grower and *abundant bloomer*. This variety will be in great demand as soon as it becomes known. Roots, each 30 cents; two for 50 cents.

Hibiscus, Sunset. A handsome large branching plant, easily raised from seeds, and producing large, beautiful flowers, in shape somewhat like a single holyhock, of a soft cream color with streaks of rosy tint. Seeds, per packet 25 cents; two packets for 40 cents.

Free with either of the above Vick's Floral Guide, 1894, if requested.

Space does not permit the mention of others.

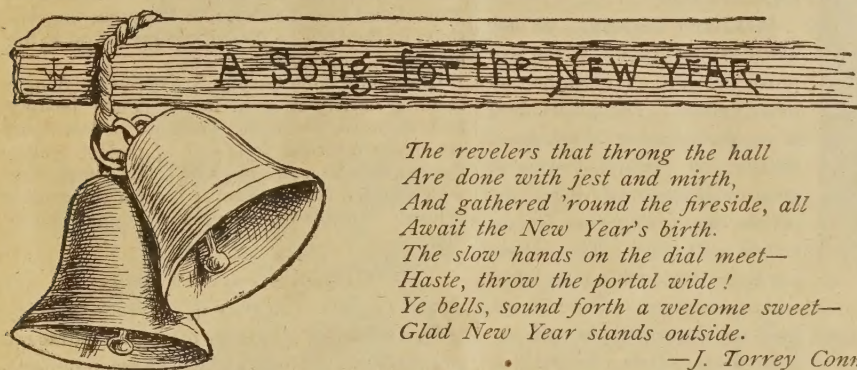
JAMES VICK'S SONS, Rochester, N. Y.

VICK'S MAGAZINE.

Vol. 17.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., JANUARY, 1894.

No. 3.



*The revelers that throng the hall
Are done with jest and mirth,
And gathered 'round the fireside, all
Await the New Year's birth.
The slow hands on the dial meet—
Haste, throw the portal wide!
Ye bells, sound forth a welcome sweet—
Glad New Year stands outside.*

—J. Torrey Connor.

MR. JAMES VICK, Sr., AND HIS FLOWERS.

"Scatter the germs of the beautiful, by the wayside let them fall."

Time turns backward in its flight as the mail brings me the FLORAL GUIDE, and tenderly I turn over its dainty pages of illustrations and descriptions of flowers, with a vivid recollection of the delight afforded me by the first copy I ever saw. Twenty-five years ago floral guides and magazines were not common by any means, and there were none worth mentioning till Mr. Vick unexpectedly sent his beautifully embellished catalogue as a gift into Southern homes, far and near, when things were undergoing the first adjustments after the derangements of the war. Then, as now, the flowers on its pages so life-like they almost smell sweet!

His seeds were cheap and many orders were sent him, and no disappointment ever resulted from the purchases. For years it was seeds that were ordered through the mails, but about 1869 the postal law was passed reducing the rates on plants, bulbs, tubers, etc., sent through the mail, and Mr. Vick was the first to publish the law that his patrons might avail themselves of its privileges. We were not slow to avail ourselves of the combined advantages of the benign law and his extensive collections of everything in the way of flowers.

Other floral guides and magazines are widely circulated now with highly refining influences, but to Mr. Vick belongs the credit of being the first; his publications, twenty-five years ago, were all we had to brighten our lives, and well do I remember how the colored plates were treasured. Chromos then had not taken the place of lithographs and cheap works of art were not so plentiful as now. The Magazine had, each month, a front page of colored flowers, and there was an offer of extra plates for five cents apiece. We availed ourselves of the opportunity, and scrap books are here now that are of interest to children then unborn, embellished with the sweet peas, carnations, roses and other flowers, and the name associated with them is enshrined in an "odor of sweet savor" in many

a Southern home, embowered in the flowering plants he sent out.

His own enthusiastic love of flowers carried its influence wherever his pages were read. In one reminiscence of his life he said the finest pinks and picotees he ever saw he raised when a boy ten years old, which told the sweet story of a childish nature inspired with a love of the beautiful, and, in that respect, the successful man of the world never outgrew the boy. Mr. James Vick and his flower seeds of long ago! Often on bright spring mornings when I have worked the mellow soil and planted the flower seeds from the pretty little papers, have the words of Charles Dickens, in *Dombey and Son*, come to mind, where Paul asked his nurse if they were going to bury his lovely young mother in the cold, dark ground, and she tells him: "not in the cold, dark ground, but the sweet warm earth where dull, brown seeds turn to pretty, bright flowers."

MRS. G. T. DRENNAN.

Lexington, Miss.

CELERY GROWING IN THE SOUTH.

THE climate of the South is by no means a celery climate, and there is very little of our soil that is suited to its cultivation naturally; that is, very little soil has been brought into cultivation that is adapted to the especial needs of celery. It is a marsh plant and requires more water than any other vegetable grown, not excepting even cauliflower. Reclaimed bogs or marshes like those in the vicinity of Kalamazoo, Michigan, afford the most suitable soil for the profitable growing of celery for market. Here and there all over the country may be found swampy land that may be converted into celery plantations.

Somehow our native gardeners or truckers do not grow celery so successfully as do the foreign gardeners, especially Hollanders. The latter are more painstaking, and leave nothing undone that will tend to produce success.

It is not likely that our Southern truckers will ever be able to compete with Northern growers, however much progress they may make in improved methods of cultivation, or in acclimating

any improved variety. In a way, celery can be grown, and any amateur or gardener can grow for home purposes all he may need, by giving it the care that is essential to make success.

Really, it is a vegetable that deserves all the care that it may call for, since the introduction of the improved dwarf varieties, and the discovery that the bed plan was superior to the old plan of deep trenches and wide rows. Celery culture has been much simplified and gives better satisfaction than it did some years ago. If one has any facilities for watering there is no reason why the attempt to grow celery should not prove successful. Lay off beds three and a half or four feet wide, with a walk two feet wide between beds if there are several short beds instead of one long one. Plow in a liberal quantity of organic manure, stable manure, compost or cotton seed. Make this application of rough material long enough in advance to allow it to ferment and partially decay, so that it will not be likely to fire or burn the plants. Most of the fertilizing, however, should be effected by means of top-dressing of highly soluble material, such as a mixture of nitrate of soda, potash salts and high grade superphosphate, though if these cannot be had other materials can be used satisfactorily in their place.

The beds need to be thoroughly and deeply broken and pulverized and rolled just before time to set out the plants, and these should be set eight by eight or ten by ten inches apart. By shallow cultivation, with scuffle hoe or rake, the plants should be kept free of weeds and their growth hastened. About six weeks after setting out the beds should be mulched to the depth of several inches, drawing the straw up carefully about the plants. In the South pine straw is the main reliance for mulching. As the plants attain to full growth they are blanched by putting additional straw all over them. Water should be applied from time to time as the need for it is indicated.

Growing the plants for the early crop for spring and early summer use, seeds are sown in cold-frames in December and the plants are made large enough to set out by the middle of January or later. For the second or late crop the seeds are sown in May and the plants are set in beds in June. This second crop is not pushed to such rapid growth as the first crop. The plants are gone over once or twice and the ends of them clipped to make them stocky. Sometimes this is done while they are still in the seed beds, or the clipping can be done after the plants are set out. Now, in conclusion, this is by far the best plan for growing celery in the South. White Plume, Golden Dwarf and Crawford's Dwarf are all excellent for growing in beds.

SAMUEL H. COOK.

Milledgeville, Ga.

NEW PLANTS OF THE SEASON.

Among the many good things which will be offered in the trade the coming season by James Vick's Sons are the plants here briefly noticed. First, and perhaps the most important is a semi-



double form of the hardy white Japanese Anemone (Honorine Jobert), which is now so popular as an autumn blooming plant. The habit of the new plant is the same in all respects as that of the parent form; the same vigorous growth and prolific bloom, only the flowers have several whorls of sepals instead of one. The flowers are much more lasting, both while left on the plant or in a cut state, an advantage which cannot fail to be appreciated. The new plant will be sent out the coming spring for the first time under the name of "Whirlwind." It cannot fail to be in demand as soon as its qualities are known. The engraving herewith gives a very correct idea of the flowers and the appearance of the plant, except in size. The handsome white flowers are two and a half inches or more in diameter and the plants about two feet in height. Planted in masses this Anemone will make a grand show in September and October.

Dahlia Ethel Vick. Flower is of medium to large size, globular and symmetrical and of the most perfect shade of clear pink ever seen. A description can convey but an imperfect conception of this new Dahlia, and it must be the admiration of all who see it.

Carnation, Florence Eddy. A sport from Nellie Lewis. A beautiful clear rose color with splashes of pink on the outer petals. Flowers large and of fine form, borne on long stems. Plant vigorous and a profuse bloomer.

Carnation, Edna Craig. A beautiful variety. Flowers a soft shade of pink, large, of fine form and substance and borne on long, stiff stems. A free and continuous bloomer. It has already

received recognition as the finest variety of its color.

Geranium, Silver Jewell. A very distinct, white variegated variety, the leaves being broadly bordered with white. At the same time it is a good thrifty grower and will prove an excellent border and bedding plant. The flowers are double, like little roses, of bright carmine color.

Pink, Her Majesty. A new hardy variety of Pink, which will prove a great acquisition in every garden. The plants form a compact mass of bluish-green foliage and produce flowers in great profusion and during a long period, even giving some blooms as late as October. The flowers are large, very double, pure white with the fragrance of the Carnation, and supported on stiff, upright stems. It is claimed that the plants are hardy in the severest climates.

The New Branching Aster is already known to our readers and we have only to add that this season it has again proved its great merits as a beautiful flower, resembling and equal to some of the best white chrysanthemums and blooming in the fall when most other flowers are gone and preceding the chrysanthemum season to which it serves as an

introduction. This plant will henceforth be largely grown by amateurs and for the trade.

Cassia Chamæcrista, or Sensitive Pea. This is one of our native annuals which has been strangely neglected in view of its beauty and interesting qualities. The plant, raised from the seed, grows from twelve to eighteen inches in height, with compound leaves, each having from eight to twelve pairs of leaflets which, like those of Mimosa pudica, are sensitive to touch, drooping and folding together. The flowers are large, an inch and a quarter in diameter, of a canary yellow, two of the petals being purple spotted at the base. They are borne on stems from two to five in a cluster and are produced freely until destroyed by frosts. The seeds are borne in pods like the pea. This plant is not offered as a new one to cultivation, but as one which is but little known and well worthy of attention.

Hibiscus Sunset. A shrubby perennial plant which blooms in two months from seed, and bears large mallow-like flowers from six to eight inches across, of a rich cream color with a velvety maroon center. The plant usually has from ten to fifteen flowers open at a time and blooms all through the summer and autumn until checked by frosts.

Ipomœa sinuata. A handsome perennial climber, blooming in about two months from seed. Flowers campanulate or like the common morning glory, white with a purple throat. Leaves deeply parted. In northern cli-

mates the plants can be cut down at the approach of winter, taken up, and stored away in a cellar like dahlia tubers until the return of mild weather.

Ipomœa Goodelli. Another morning glory style of flower and plant. Flowers borne in clusters on long stems, color pale rosy-lilac deepening at the throat. Plants easily raised from seed and come early into bloom. The plants are shy seeders, but to offset this they root easily from slips or cuttings and it can be multiplied to almost any extent in this manner. In autumn the plants can be removed from the open ground and stored away, like the preceding variety, or they can be potted and grown on in the house or greenhouse.

Chrysanthemum George S. Conover. A new seedling variety of great merit. Plant healthy and vigorous, producing immense yellow flowers of the Japanese style and of perfect grace; flowers borne on strong, stiff stems supporting with ease the heavy flowers; color a fine canary yellow. An early bloomer and a great acquisition.

GINSENG CULTURE.

AS the article on ginseng culture in your interesting Magazine of August attracted considerable attention, I take pleasure in furnishing some additional facts which will be of interest to your readers. I have recently taken the roots from three beds (3x16 feet each) which had been in cultivation, one five years, the other four years. The combined product of the three beds was 1,074 roots which weighed 73 pounds; from these I assorted out 833 roots, 20 pounds, for transplanting again, leaving 53 pounds of clean washed roots to be dried for market which made 17 pounds dry, which I have sold for \$4.00 per pound, 50 cents per pound more than common wild root sold for. It will be observed that the stock has only been decreased 241 roots. The 833 roots taken off for replanting were much larger than the roots with which the beds were



originally stocked. The seed produced from the three beds during the time was worth at least \$40.00.

I have at this time (November, 1893) in my garden 32 beds 3x16 stocked with roots and seeds; also over 30,000 seeds in forest nursery beds.

I have this season's crop of seeds, about 100,000, packed in loam in condition to promote germination, ready to be sown next season. The figures I have given show something of the possibilities in ginseng culture. The results certainly were far beyond my most sanguine expectations. GEO. STANTON.

SUCCESSFUL WINDOW GARDENS.

WHO does not want the home window to be bright with house plants? Winter would be long indeed if we did not have some of our choice favorites to keep us company during the days when we are kept indoors. In passing windows where these floral specimens peep out at us we note the taste of the owner.



CHINESE PRIMROSE.

Here is a collection of primroses mostly—great fringy blossoms—pale pink, deep rose, and purest white; you can almost smell them through the glass, and it is hard not to envy the possessor. Another has the finest cyclamens we have ever seen. How does she manage so well when we have but a sickly plant or two at home? And so, too, we note in the early winter months rare chrysanthemums which are the rivals of even a florist's collection. But so it is, one loves this and another that, and the nature and habits of the plants are studied and through the knowledge thus gained, and by experience, comes success in cultivation.

"Plants will grow for you but they will not for me" we sometimes hear from a friend who, although a vigorous collector, will leave the poor things to take care of themselves afterward. She is an orderly housewife, who attends to every known duty before the plants come in for their share of attention, and then a bit of watering, sometimes a cold stream poured upon them once or twice a week from the mouth of a pitcher, must suffice. The poor things lean toward the window seeking light if deprived of all else, the dead and dried leaves still clinging to them and marring their beauty.

But how may one be a successful winter florist? We would say in this matter, keep a superfluity of plants out of your window. Study and cultivate but few kinds, but let them be choice ones, and give them daily attention. In the first place, let the soil be fertile; the best of leafmold mixed with sand—neither sand, nor clay, nor gravel, but just mellow mold, the top soil of well rotted leaves, sandy enough to be loose, clayey enough for compact richness, light with fertile mold. It is well to have a box of this soil in the cellar for reserve. After plants have been potted some months they are often the better for a top dressing, that is, a renewal of the surface soil; and sometimes plants need re-potting during the winter.

Always have the pots perfectly clean, well washed or scoured outside and in, if they have been long used or become incrustated. Washing

the outside of the pots during the winter is of great use, and frequently setting in a basin of tepid water, leaving stand until a part of the water has been absorbed.

Plants thrive best when windows are toward the morning sunshine, though often they do well with a western aspect. Primroses will thrive and bloom beautifully in north windows without much or any sunshine. Never permit a dead or dying leaf to remain on the plants. These are unsightly and unhealthy. Turn the plants every day that they may grow straight and symmetrical and not lean toward the glass.

As to watering, some plants require more, some less. Primroses must be watered with care not to sprinkle foliage, on the contrary the cyclamen loves to have its leaves well washed. It is never well for these water-loving cyclamens to become dry, and they must have their drink as constantly as the day comes round.

Most plants confined in pots like to be hoed occasionally. For this purpose a long wire hair pin is an excellent implement. Gently stir the earth without disturbing the fibrous roots. It is not good in airing rooms to turn a whole broadside of cold air over the plants, but a little air from the outside now and then, if admitted judiciously, does not disagree with them.

After all, experience is the best teacher—nothing like it. Nature will be wonderfully accommodating if you only understand her, and the humblest dwelling may, with time, care and forethought, be turned into a bower of beauty. Try it.

H. K.

THE "GOLDEN FLOWER."

THE chrysanthemum is easily cultivated, and when all other blooms have faded rewards one's care with a profusion of brilliant blossoms that brighten the frost-devastated gardens into something akin to summer beauty. Indeed, the roses of summer are scarcely to be regretted, so varied are the charms of the "golden flowers" that reign in their stead. It is as if autumn, "whose palette wondrous tints doth show," had stolen the sunlight's gold and the rosy blushes of the dawn wherewith to apparel this royal child of the Orient.

If the chrysanthemums' hues are varied, what may be said of their forms? In size the flowers range from the tiny "button" to immense hundred-leaved beauties, the offspring of culture; and while the petals of many varieties, such as The Queen, Pride of Englewood, Pink Pearl, California, etc., curve inward, forming a perfect sphere, others like the Medusa, Flying Cranes' Feathers and Niagara spread outward, revealing the heart of the flowers. It is to the Japanese, who have brought the chrysanthemum to a high state of perfection, that we are indebted for much useful information regarding the cultivation of the flower.

Bed your plants in the spring, setting about ten inches apart, and as soon as the roots put forth luxuriantly cut around each plant with a sharp trowel at a distance of three inches from the stalk. This operation, repeated frequently, keeps the roots in a compact bunch or mat. The top of the plant is similarly treated, a single straight stalk, or perhaps two or three stalks only, being allowed to grow. As buds develop all save two or three are removed, the result being

that the vital forces of the roots are thrown into a few perfect flowers. The hole in which the plant is set should be filled with the richest soil.

Among the countless varieties of this bonny flower that comes to make the last days of autumn glad are Mrs. Alpheus Hardy, pure white and many petaled; Gladiator, its blood red globes frequently attaining an enormous size; Porcupine, with pale brownish-yellow petals; Superbiflora, daintily dressed in white and violet; Mrs. J. Laing, an imperial blossom, in color a rich Indian red; President Lincoln, a variegated bronze; Duke of Berrick, pale pink. At the various yearly exhibitions, held all over the country, many new varieties are shown.

Although the chrysanthemum seems so ill fitted to do battle with the rigorous eastern climate, it is quite at home with us, and flourishes side by side with the tropical growths of our milder clime. Lovers of flowers generally have given attention to chrysanthemum culture; in every garden from Maine to California the Queen of Autumn may be found.

J. T. C.

Oakland, Cal.



A Racking Cough

Cured by Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. Mrs. P. D. HALL, 217 Genesee St., Lockport, N. Y., says:

"Over thirty years ago, I remember hearing my father describe the wonderful curative effects of Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. During a recent attack of La Grippe, which assumed the form of a catarrh, soreness of the lungs, accompanied by an aggravating cough, I used various remedies and prescriptions. While some of these medicines partially alleviated the coughing during the day, none of them afforded me any relief from that spasmodic action of the lungs which would seize me the moment I attempted to lie down at night. After ten or twelve such nights, I was

Nearly in Despair,

and had about decided to sit up all night in my easy chair, and procure what sleep I could in that way. It then occurred to me that I had a bottle of Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. I took a spoonful of this preparation in a little water, and was able to lie down without coughing. In a few moments I fell asleep, and awoke in the morning greatly refreshed and feeling much better. I took a teaspoonful of the Pectoral every night for a week, then gradually decreased the dose, and in two weeks my cough was cured."

Ayer's Cherry Pectoral

Prepared by Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass.

Prompt to act, sure to cure

MIDWINTER EXPOSITION.

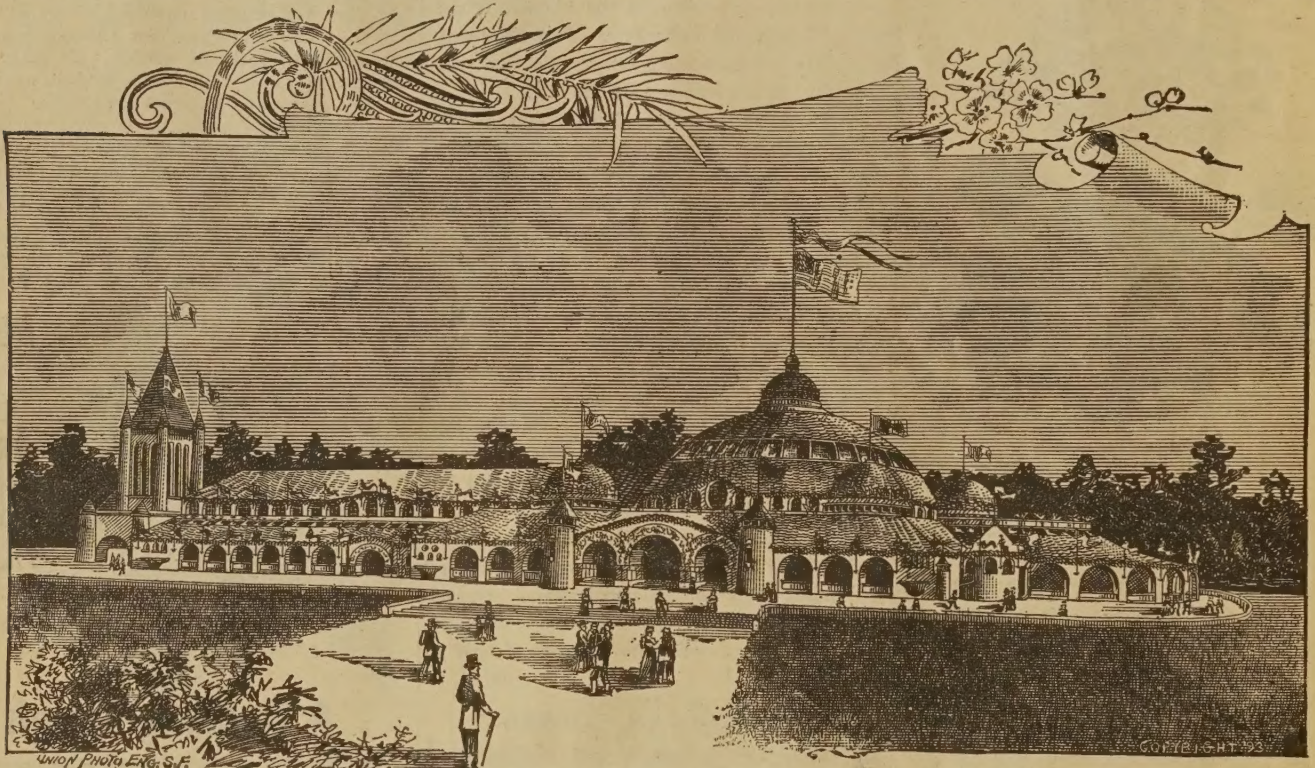
The power of great exhibitions to attract multitudes of visitors has been fully shown in recent years. The attendance at the late Paris Exposition was thought to be enormous and to be possible only because it was at the handsomest and gayest capitol of Europe, and yet the number of visitors was exceeded at the Columbian Exposition, at an interior town of the United States.

in truth as well as in name. Many of the contributions from different countries at Chicago have been transferred to the Midwinter Exposition and some of the most attractive foreign exhibits will there be again displayed. The States of the Pacific slope, Mexico, Central and South America, Hawaii, Australia, New Zealand, China and Japan will all be represented.

About sixty acres of Golden Gate Park have

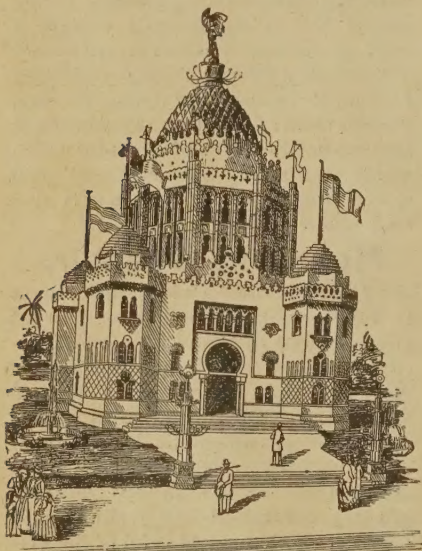
corridor with a pavilion at each corner and surmounted by a central dome. In this building the business management of the Exposition has its offices.

The largest structure is the Manufactures and Liberal Arts Building, 462 feet long and 237 feet wide, in the Moorish style. Overlooking the main floor is a gallery 35 feet wide extending completely around the interior, and above the gallery is a third floor some fifty feet from the main floor opening into a roof garden containing the



AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL BUILDING.

No doubt the foreign element in attendance here was far below what it was at Paris. Our own people are travelers and sight seers. Who shall say then that the Midwinter International Exposition opening in San Francisco on the 1st day of January, 1894, will not be liberally patronized?



ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.

With the energy of youth and the consciousness of power the executive officers of this great Western show have pushed their schemes with an assurance of a brilliant achievement. This exposition is not expected to be another Chicago World's Fair but it is to be an international show

been devoted to the uses of the Exposition. The buildings, though not to be compared in size with the huge structures at Chicago will yet be ample to house and show to the best advantage the articles displayed and at the same time will be beautiful specimens of architectural designs.

California has within her own boundaries great resources for an exhibition, and when to these are added those of Oregon, Washington and the other mining States, with the addition of the foreign goods presented, the element of magnitude will not be lacking in this International show. The principal buildings are those of Mechanics and Arts, Manufactures and Liberal Arts, Fine Arts, Agriculture and Horticulture, an engraving of which is shown on this page, and the Administration Building, also here illustrated. Besides these there are special buildings of States and countries and of California counties. The Chinese Six Companies of San Francisco has a building of its own one hundred and sixty feet long and ninety feet wide with a central court yard to be filled with Chinese trees, shrubs and plants.

The Agricultural and Horticultural Building is in the California Spanish Mission style modified by Romanesque. Its large dome and several smaller ones together with its tower heighten its effect and make it a very interesting specimen of architecture, though its low face makes it less imposing at short range than the other large buildings.

The Administration Building is a very unique structure, combining Indian and Siamese styles of architecture. It consists of an inclosed square

many hardy outdoor plants of a California winter.

The Mechanical Arts Building is the second largest in size, being 324 feet by 160 feet, and in its construction the spirit of the architecture of the Indian Temples has been skillfully adapted. The Fine Arts Building is considered a masterpiece of work and is to remain permanently on the park grounds. The general idea of the building seems to be Egyptian, with a Siamese treatment of the entrance to the vestibule. Southern California has a building of its own in Spanish-American style, and will, no doubt, make a grand display with its magnificent resources and enthusiastic and energetic citizens. From these meager statements it may be inferred that the Midwinter Exposition will contain a great, valuable and interesting display, worthy of the attention of all who can make it a visit.

A Clock out of
order shows it on the
face. When the hu-
man machine goes
wrong, the physiogno-
my tells tales. If you
do not *look* well, take
Beecham's
Pills
(Worth
a Guinea
a Box.)
(Tasteless)
25 cents a box

IXIAS.

THE genus ixia is quite an extensive one, embracing many species and varieties, and as the plants are half hardy in this vicinity they should be grown in spot for winter flowering in the greenhouse or window garden. They are natives of the Cape of Good Hope and other portions of the south of Africa, and all may be described as having small bulbs and narrow sword-shaped leaves, with slender, simple or slightly branched stems bearing spikes of large showy flowers the centers of which are always different from the other parts so that they are exceedingly beautiful when in full bloom, the colors being rich, beautiful and varied. The plants bloom during the winter months, the precise time depending on the treatment given them. Few flowers attract more attention by their curious form and strange coloring, some



IXIA VIRIDIFLORA.

varieties producing single, others double, flowers, all showing three or four colors, and there is a greater difference in the form and colors in the several species and varieties of ixias than with any other class of plants. As the bulbs can be procured at moderate prices and may be readily grown to great perfection they well deserve attention.

The bulbs can be potted at any time from September to December. Let the pots be properly drained; if the pots are one-third filled with drainage it will be none too much. A mixture of two-thirds well decayed turfy loam, one-third well decomposed manure or leafmold and a good sprinkling of sharp sand will be suitable. Five or six bulbs can be placed in a five-inch pot, covering them about an inch in depth. When first potted water thoroughly and then set the pots in some dark cool place in order that plenty of roots may form before top

growth commences. Water as required. They should be permitted to remain in darkness for at least six or eight weeks, and when started into growth should be given a light, cool situation. A close, moist atmosphere must be guarded against, as this will cause the flower-stems and foliage to turn brown and die just about the time of blooming. After the flowers decay the supply of water should be gradually diminished and when the foliage has dried the pots should be stored in a dry place until it is time to start them into growth again in the fall. Propagation is effected by offsets which may be removed when repotted and treated as described.

Of the many varieties in cultivation the following are the most desirable and distinct:

I. crateroides is an early blooming variety of dwarf growth with bright scarlet flowers which are produced in very compact spikes. Grand for forcing.

I. Galatea has flowers of a snowy white color with a deep blue eye.

I. viridiflora is a very distinct variety, the prevailing color being green, spotted at the base with purple and pink.

Duchess. The flowers of this variety are very beautiful in form, and are of a pure white color with a distinct black center.

Lady Slade has flowers of a brilliant pink color.

Titus has large spikes of showy, yellow flowers which are striped with magenta and have a black center.

Wonder has double pink, sweet scented flowers.

CHAS. E. PARNELL.

Floral Park, N. Y.

OTHER WINDOW BULBS.

LAST fall a gardener at Shaw's Garden, St. Louis, surprised me by the statement that the freesias were hardy here with protection, and were fine spring bloomers out of doors. I have been adding to my collection of bulbs—both hardy and tender—as I was able, the last few years, and I am more than satisfied with my labor. I have several which have given me no bloom as yet, but when the right time comes I shall be paid well for waiting. I have an amaryllis I have had for two years; I thought it was large enough to bloom when sent to me by a friend who wrote that it bore scarlet flowers as large as a pint cup. A fine Crinum Kirkii sent me last spring from Florida gave me a stalk of bloom with eleven large lilies. It was the fourth time it had bloomed by the dried bloom stalks, but the bulb weighed two pounds. A Crinum fimbriatum, or milk and wine lily, I have had two years and no bloom, but this year six offsets came. I have two other kinds of crinums but do not know their names. The amaryllis is one of my favorite flowers. I have Equestris, Empress of India, Belladonna and three without names. I had Babianas with purple blossoms, Lachenolia with a spike of very odd flowers, Bravoa geminiflora, or twin flower, something like a tuberose in leaf and mode of growth. Mine had nearly twenty buds—growing two and two, like a tuberose, and nearly as large, but

they were glued together, the flower coral colored was a tube with a scalloped opening. Mine seems to be an evergreen as it has continued to grow all of the time since it bloomed last May.

Puschkinia is a blue and white striped flower something like a scilla. My ixias, sparaxis, tritonias, antholizas and calochortus did not bloom for me yet, but they rested and increased and I repotted them this fall and they are all growing nicely and I am waiting for flowers. Brodiaea coccinea I was much pleased with, but one would hardly think it belonged to the same family as the other Brodieas. Then the triteleias, violacea and uniflora, are dear little bloomers, sending up flower after flower for days; so that a pot of half a dozen bulbs may be in bloom for six weeks or more. Allium Neapolitanum is another one which did not bloom for me, but others recommend it highly. But for something which will give a great deal of satisfaction for a very little money let me advise Ornithogalum Arabicum. It has a long name but that is its only drawback. There are many other bulbs which will bloom in the winter, so if one is so minded he need have no other plants but bulbs, and if they are properly cared for they will bloom all winter long.

I have arranged this fall what I call my "bulb window." I had so many other plants that I did not seem to be able to find room on the shelves for my bulbs as they started to grow, so I had three shelves put up to a west window in my bed room, there is no stove in the room but it receives some heat from the adjoining room and is warm enough to winter my cactus in, which is on top of the wardrobe and on top of a shelf over the door. I think my bulbs are going to do finely there; the other room was too warm for them last winter. One good thing about these bulbs is that you do not have to throw them away and buy new ones every year, but let the bulbs ripen off well and leave them in the pots till September and then repot them, and they are ready to go to work again.

New Douglas, Ill. MRS. M. A. BUCKNELL.

Easily Taken Up

Cod Liver Oil as it appears in Scott's Emulsion is easily taken up by the system. In no other form can so much fat-food be assimilated without injury to the organs of digestion.



Scott's Emulsion

of Cod Liver Oil with Hypophosphites has come to be an article of every-day use, a prompt and infallible cure for Colds, Coughs, Throat troubles, and a positive builder of flesh.

Prepared by Scott & Bowne, N. Y. All druggists.

Letter Box.

In this department we shall be pleased to answer any questions relating to Flowers, Vegetables and Plants, or to publish the experiences of our readers. JAMES VICK.

Christmas Rose.

Please tell me in your next Magazine how to care for the Christmas rose, *Helleborus niger*. How old must the plant be before it will bloom? I potted my plant. Would it have stood out of doors without freezing this winter since it was just transplanted in the spring? S. E. V.

Bluffton, Ind.

The Christmas rose appears to require about three years to attain strength for blooming when young plants are set out in the open ground. It might be well the first year after planting to gather some leaves about the plant in the fall to serve as a winter protection. Although this attention might not be absolutely necessary yet it would conserve the vigor of the plant.

Little Gem Calla—Freesias.

The plants were promptly received and am well pleased with them. Little Gem calla is growing finely; one leaf has grown and another is ready to unfold in less than two weeks. I have several fine plants that I bought of you several years ago that I prize highly, *Lilium candidum* and *L. auratum*, and the Easter lily I had of you grew and blossomed the best of any I ever had.

Can you tell us in the Magazine something about mammoth freesias? Do you have them? I ordered some of Mr. C. last year but they failed to blossom, and I have planted them again, but the bulbs are the smallest I have. My freesias seldom bloom the first winter that I order them, but do better the next. I am very fond of them. Mrs. J. F. S.

Athol Center, Mass.

We have no knowledge whatever of mammoth freesias. If any of our readers know about them we hope they will send us an account of them for publication.

Maggie Murphy Potato.

In May I saw your offer for a premium for Maggie Murphy potatoes and sent for one pound of seed. The potatoes reached me the 28th of June. Our garden spot had never been plowed before, and for three years previous to our buying it had been used as a street, so it was quite hard. I planted the potatoes the day I received them; they were hoed twice; the first rain we had after planting them was July 4th, the next was September 10th, and it continued to rain nearly every day until they were dug, the 23d of October; there was frost every month, no fertilizers were used on the ground; there were twenty-two eyes; I put one in each hill. Two hills were pulled up just as the potatoes were set. We had thirteen pounds from the one pound of seed. I knew there would be no chance of my getting a prize after the season was so unfavorable, but I am so well pleased with what I raised that I send you a sample. Next year we expect to live at the Flat Head Lake and I shall save my potatoes to plant there and send for some of the American Wonder, for I have never seen a country where potatoes grew in such abundance and were as fine as here in this State. Right here it is too close to the mountains to be certain of a favorable season, as there is frost nearly every month in the year, but down at the lake they have no frost from the middle of May until October. Mrs. H. M. G.

Columbia Falls, Mont.

Unhealthy Abutilon.

I have an abutilon. It has had as many as a hundred buds, but not one of the buds has matured. They have shriveled up and dropped off. The plant has good soil, a sunny window, and stands in a room of which the average temperature is 65°. I give it a good deal of water but I think not too much. Can you tell me what the trouble is? My plant is two feet high. It puts out many branches but the leaves look sickly. I have plants of all kinds and my window gardens are much admired. This abutilon is my only failure. I enjoy your Magazine very much. I am also pleased with the little book on "Weeds" which I sent for on your recommendation. Old Mystic, Conn. Mrs. C. Q. E.

We should expect to find the trouble in this

case with the roots of the plant. There is probably some defect in the potting. Would recommend that it be repotted, giving the pot good drainage and using a soil which is one-half loam and the other half composed of equal parts of leafmold, sand and well rotted manure. Cut back the roots a little and shorten in the shoots and branches. It may be safer at this season not to shake out all the soil from the roots but to reduce the ball and place the fresh soil at the bottom and sides of the pot.

Japan Lily—Water Hyacinth—Chrysanthemum.

Will you kindly tell me through the "Letter Box" the treatment of the Japan lily?

How ought the water hyacinth be kept during the winter?

The chrysanthemums I received from you last spring have proved so satisfactory I intend to raise many more next year. During the summer at different times I pinched off the plants small branches, which grew out in the wrong places, and stuck them all down in a pot of earth, hardly thinking they would grow, now they are all over a foot high and each one has from three to five perfect flowers. The flowers on the Pink Ostrich Plume are very large. The people here say they are the largest they have ever seen. Texarkana, Tex. M. E. K.

In a warm, dry climate like that of Texas we should expect to succeed best with Japan lilies by planting them where they would have at least partial shade, and we should also keep them all the time heavily mulched in order to maintain as much as possible a cool temperature in the soil and to prevent its drying out.

The water hyacinth during winter must have plenty of heat and light.

Starting Celery Seed.

I wish you would tell me how to raise celery plants in order to get them early enough to plant in the spring. I have sown seed the two past seasons; last spring I made a hotbed the last of March, thinking seed would come up much sooner than in the garden but I could not see any difference. The celery seed lies from three to four weeks in the ground before it begins to grow, and when the seeds start the plants are so weak that most of them dwindle away, so that not many are left to set. Last spring I transplanted them in a nice bed in the garden but it was so late that I could not reset them again in the trench; that is the trouble, I can't get the plants early enough. Does it always take the seeds that length of time to come up? Mrs. E. H.

South Mound, Kas.

Celery seed always takes considerable time to germinate, old seed taking longer than new seed, hence one should be careful to procure it where one is confident of its being fresh. In the hotbed or greenhouse, where the soil is warm and kept permanently moist, it will start sooner than in the open ground, since there it is sown early in the spring and before the soil is thoroughly warmed; but even in a hotbed or forcing house it takes about two weeks to start. When the young plants are about two inches high they should be transplanted into a well enriched bed, and kept carefully watered and tended, under which conditions they will make a vigorous growth and be ready in good time for the final setting.

Unhealthy Geranium Leaves.

I send you some leaves, can you tell me the cause of their turning this way. I have ninety geraniums all in bud or blossom. Last year in March they began to look this way and then all died. I have always had such nice flowers and plants that I cannot bear now to lose them. Can you help me? If so, I shall be very much obliged to you. Mrs. F. D. W.

Waltham, Mass.

The specimen geranium leaves received with this letter appeared to be affected at the outer

edge, a zone about a quarter of an inch in width around the leaves was thin, dry, papery and colorless. As we have previously had somewhat similar leaves sent in and not knowing the cause of the peculiar affection, we sent the specimens to Dr. Charles H. Peck, of the State Museum, Albany, a specialist in fungi, asking him to give them an examination. The following letter from Dr. Peck is in reply to our request:

STATE HALL, ALBANY, N. Y., Dec. 7, 1893.

C. W. SEELYE, Editor of Vick's Magazine:

Dear Sir—An examination of the geranium leaves sent in yours of December 4th reveals no fungus growth in or on them. There are some indications that the trouble may be bacterial in character but my microscope is not of sufficient power to make this clear.

Very truly yours,

CHAS. H. PECK.

Now comes the question, What is best to be done? In view of the fact that all died which were affected this way last spring, it would appear that the practical remedy is to stamp out the disease. Throw away any plant as soon as the symptoms of the disease appear. If the plants are only to die after lingering for awhile it is better to be rid of them at once, and thus save the healthy ones from becoming affected.

If any of our readers have any knowledge of the nature and remedy of this disease we hope they may make it known.

"If it were DONE when 'tis DONE, then 'twere well it were DONE QUICKLY."

—Macbeth.

and if it is a Croquette, or an Oyster, or a Pie, or a Doughnut, or a Biscuit, or any other article that needs

SHORTENING

when 'tis done, 'twill be better done as well as more quickly done if you use

Cottolene
The Vegetable Shortening.

It is purer than lard; it is without the objectionable flavor of lard; it heats quicker than lard; it browns better than lard, and does not make food greasy and indigestible as lard does.

Ask your grocer for Cottolene, and accept no imitations. Sold everywhere in three and five pound pails.



Made only by
N. K. Fairbank & Co.
CHICAGO,
New York, Boston,
Philadelphia,
San Francisco,
St. Louis, Montreal.

Mary Washington Rose.

Last February I got a Mary Washington rose and when it was fourteen or fifteen inches high it had eleven buds on, and one time it had thirty-six buds and has bloomed up to November, and I have had roses from it. Can you tell me in next month's Magazine whether it is best to wrap straw around it or leave it right in the open ground. It is not a year old yet. I raised it from a slip.

H. C. H.

Fair Haven, Conn.

As the hardiness of this variety is not known it may be well to give it protection as proposed, as that can do no harm, and in fact is always beneficial.

Begonia—Hyacinth—Celery.

My Begonia Rex has dropped all of its leaves. Shall I water it or let it remain dry?

If I keep my hyacinths dark will they send up a green leaf, or must I bring them out in the light to do that?

Will it do any hurt to take a watering pot and sprinkle the boxes of my celery in the cellar packed for winter use? It is some wilted. Mrs. A. D. H.

Enterprise, N. Y.

It is surmised that the begonia in question has been kept in too low a temperature, and at the same time has received water, conditions which have caused the dropping of the leaves. It may be best now to repot it, using equal parts of loam and leafmold with a small amount of sand. Water very carefully and keep the plant in a temperature of 65° to 70°.

As soon as the hyacinth bulbs have made roots plentifully they should be brought out to the light, unless it is desired to retard them; not much leaf growth will take place in the dark.

Watering the celery stored away cannot be advised as it would be apt to induce rot.

Plants New and Old.

Your request for observations on plants new and old leads me to tell you of my experience with the Brazilian morning glory, and to submit some thoughts which I would like to offer to beginners in flower culture. I started two morning glories in small jars early in April. When warm enough I transplanted them to the ground before two south windows where the sun shone all day; but the roots were shaded until 9 a. m. and after 3:30 p. m. I supposed they would need dryer soil than most of our plants, but I watered them frequently, and once a week applied manure water. When one of them was half way up the window I pinched the tip off, and then two branches went straggling to the chamber window, and in September it had a few short arms and perhaps a dozen flowers. I am glad to have seen it.

Any one just beginning flower culture and wanting a constant brilliant bed of annuals should grow Phlox Drummondii. I have grown the more common flowers for many years, and so long as I have any I shall start phlox as early as I can in a hotbed or cold frame, let scarcely any seed pods form, and expect plenty of flowers until frost. Last spring I planted fourteen of Vick's light and white unnamed gladiolus bulbs. All bloomed, giving me eight new kinds, and so much pleasure that I wanted to tell others I was sure Vick don't praise them all they deserve.

M. E. S.

*Fulton, N. Y.***Brazilian Morning Glory.**

It is all that is claimed for it, and more too. I never saw so rampant a grower, and then it is a beautiful thing besides, and covers up a fence in no time.

Mrs. C. of Louisiana writes as above. Many complaints were made last season of the seeds of the Brazilian morning glory, and yet numerous correspondents gave testimony like the above. The fact is the seeds are difficult to start and require considerable patience together with all proper conditions. It is best to begin early with them, and in the house. Just what is the best treatment we are not prepared to say, but it is safe to advise that the seeds be sown in a box or pot and be kept moderately and constantly moist for a number of weeks. Some say a small hole should be cut in the hard outer

shell of the seed and this course has been attended with satisfactory results. Such treatment is the same as that given to canna seeds which are extremely difficult to germinate unless the exterior of the seed is cut or filed through, thus allowing the water to enter and swell the seed. In the case of the Osage orange many fail to raise the seeds when they are perfectly fresh and sound. We have frequently placed Osage orange seeds in a tub and kept them covered with water for four or five weeks, and then drained it off and sowed them, and they would come up strong in a fortnight and with scarcely a failure. Long soaking in water of the seeds of Brazilian morning glory might be equally as effective. Probably by another springtime the best treatment will be learned.

Insects on Chrysanthemum.

What can I do to get rid of the green louse that is on a beautiful chrysanthemum? Why did all the buds of this same plant, when they were quite small, turn black and dry up with the exception of three

which opened? The blossoms are of a pure white with a rich golden center, and have been in blossom over three weeks but are now beginning to fade. There are also many young shoots at the roots that grow rapidly in spite of my picking them off repeatedly. Shall I allow these to grow or can I transplant them, or shall I continue to pick them off?

Burlington, Wis.

SUBSCRIBER.

Fumigating with tobacco or tobacco stems is the most common means employed to destroy the green fly. In a small way it is much easier and quite as effective to use sulpho-tobacco soap, dissolving it in water and syringing the plants with the solution. The buds which dried up may have been injured by insects.

It is not best to try to keep a chrysanthemum plant which has finished blooming. Young plants should be raised by taking slips or cuttings from the old one and rooting them and growing them on until they are large and strong. Do not take the sprouts which start up from the roots, as plants raised from these suckers are more apt to produce plants which sucker freely. Take the cuttings from the young side shoots of the branches.



HOW DO YOU SPELL SOAP DEAR?
WHY MA, P-E-A-R-S OF COURSE!



ROCHESTER, N. Y., JANUARY, 1894.

Entered in the Post Office at Rochester as "second-class" matter.

Vick's Monthly Magazine is published at the following rates, either for old or new subscribers.

These rates include postage:

One copy one year, in advance, Fifty Cents.

One copy twenty-seven months (two and one-fourth years), full payment in advance, One Dollar.

A Club of Five or more copies, sent at one time, at 40 cents each, without premiums. Neighbors can join in this plan.

Free Copies.—One free copy additional will be allowed to each club of ten (in addition to all other premiums and offers), if spoken of at the time the club is sent.

All contributions and subscriptions should be sent to Vick Publishing Co., at Rochester, N. Y.

ADVERTISING RATES.

\$1.25 per agate line per month; \$1.18 for 3 months, or 200 lines; \$1.12 for six months, or 400 lines; \$1.06 or 9 months, or 600 lines; \$1.00 for 1 year, or 1000 lines. One line extra charged for less than five.

All communications in regard to advertising to Vick Publishing Co., New York office, 38 Times Building, H. P. Hubbard, Manager.

Average monthly circulation 200,000.

THE GOVERNMENT SEED SHOP.

One thing for which all may be thankful in these hard times is that the government proposes to use less money in buying common seeds and distributing them free through Congressmen. Secretary of Agriculture Morton advises that only about \$35,000 be expended for that purpose instead of \$135,000, as last year, and the money is intended to be used in the purchase of new and promising varieties, and it is proposed to distribute them through the Experiment Stations of the different States. The smaller sum is probably five times as much as can be used to the advantage of the public. The government will have to be wider awake than it appears to be if it can introduce any valuable new seeds into the country ahead of the seedsmen. It won't be done, and if the whole appropriation was stopped the country would be the better for it. However, the present reduction is a good lop off, and it is hoped there will be another next year.

EFFECTIVE ECONOMY.

We are sure that if our readers knew the actual value and superiority of the Neponset Water Proof Fabrics, advertised on our front cover, that Messrs. F. W. Bird & Son would be kept busy filling orders. The writer of this paragraph has personally tested them and thoroughly believes that the statements made in their advertisement are solid truth. There is hardly a family but what could find use for them in one way or another and greatly to their advantage. Messrs. Bird will gladly send free samples to any of our readers who will tell them they saw his advertisement in this Magazine. Drop them a postal.

A B C OF POTATO CULTURE.

A practical manual on potato culture by T. B. Terry, published by A. I. Root, Medina, Ohio. The author is a working farmer and a good cultivator of renown, and we can wish potato growers no better fortune than to get this

little book and read it until they fully comprehend its teachings. As an insight into the book, and at the same time to give the most in the smallest space, the following extract from the closing pages is given:

"Two things the successful farmer of the future must do: He must get larger returns per acre than the average, and reduce the cost of production. If you will think the matter over you will see that everything that is said in this book comes under these two heads. Let us look at this a moment. If you drain the wet places, you will get more per acre. The clover rotation gives you cheaper and safer food, and hence reduces the cost of production. Cutting to one eye saves us money (seed), and is managed so as to give as good results. Drill culture and long straight rows enable us to cultivate at about half the cost. Level culture saves plant food and moisture, and shallow culture prevents injury to roots, all of which tends to increase the yield, and decidedly too. Good sound unsprouted seed, you will remember, once gave me \$33 an acre more than sprouted seed. With our bushel boxes and wagons we can handle the crop for about half what we used to. Thus we have reduced the cost of production, you see. So I might go on for many pages; but, enough. You see the point, and it is the most sincere hope of the writer that you may get hints and be set to thinking by what you have read in these pages, and that the ultimate result may be large fine crops, produced at a minimum cost. Then will you be prosperous. I feel that, perhaps, I have made it appear that prosperity will come very easily. This is not often the case. It took many years of hard work to get our little farm fixed to suit us; in fact, it isn't quite right yet. It is a long hard struggle to double the productiveness of a run-down farm, and arrange to do everything cheaply and as well as you can study out how. Success will come; but it is faithful, persistent, long-continued, never-tiring, well-directed work that brings it."

YOU WANT ONE, SURE.

Those Calendars of the Pope Manufacturing Co., of Boston, are an ornament to anybody's desk or table, in office, school or at home. It has large memorandum space for each day in the year, handy for keeping appointments or as a reminder to do certain things on certain days. We advise our readers to send for one and are sure they will be pleased all the year 1894.

FIRST PRIZE MAGGIE MURPHY.

EAST SOUND, WASHINGTON.

Editor of *Vick's Magazine*:

As the taker of first prize on the Maggie Murphy potato, perhaps a few words from me may interest some of your many readers. First let me say that I do not know any of the Vicks personally and believe there was no favoritism shown in the awards. I am not smarter than all the other six hundred competitors, nor do I wish to brag of my good management. I do, however, wish to state here that I am a very painstaking grower. Anything that is worth doing at all is worth doing well, is my motto. I attribute my success to three things, soil, climate, and care. You can judge somewhat of the soil when I tell you that I used no manure whatever, and something of the climate when I tell you that they were never watered nor protected from the sun or rain. As to the care, I never allowed the earth to become packed nor a weed to grow amongst them. Now, Mr. Editor, I could tell more particularly about my soil, climate and care, but will not burden you nor tire your readers, but will close asking if this does not speak volumes for this grand young State. Wishing your nice little Magazine success, I remain your friend

G. H. WILLIAMS.

It is quite right that our friend who has taken the first prize in the Maggie Murphy contest should have a little personal pride in it and also be a little proud of his State. There is no doubt whatever that the State of Washington will prove to be one of the greatest States in the Union for the production of potatoes. On the other hand, there is not one of the many contestants for the potato prizes who may not indulge in some self congratulations for his exhibit. Without any exaggeration it may be said that the prize col-

lection was one of the finest displays of potatoes ever made in this or any other country, and it was a grand attraction for days in this city, commanding the admiration of every one.

A NEW FORAGE PLANT.

A few years since a large growing species of polygonum, or knot-weed, *P. sachalinense*, attracted some attention as a bold, large plant for lawn planting, and was planted to some extent in Europe and England and was introduced here. Our own trial of it showed it to be too weedy in its appearance ever to become popular as an ornamental plant, and for that reason it was not publicly mentioned or sent out. During the great drouth which prevailed last summer in Europe it was discovered in France that this plant could stand unaffected by the greatest heat and drouth, and moreover that it was highly relished by cattle. A test of it in feeding proved it to be a nourishing food and a good milk producer. Now, the French have commenced the propagation of the plant in quantities as a forage plant. In this country it will probably prove quite as welcome in many localities and regions. Dry hillsides at the North and large areas in the Southern States may thus be provided with a fodder plant which will afford an ample supply.

PRETTY VALENTINES FREE.

We are giving away a package of sweet pretty valentines to all who would like to take our Prize Story Magazine, COMFORT, on trial for the next three months. They are the regular cupid darts made up with Lithographic lace work. Send 6 cents to COMFORT, Box 314, Augusta, Maine, for trial subscription and we will include an assortment of Comics, postpaid.

A Splendid Free Offer.

To every reader of this paper who is sick or ailing, we will send a free trial package of the best remedy in the world for the speedy and permanent cure of Dyspepsia, Indigestion, Constipation, Biliousness, Sour Stomach, Liver and Kidney Complaints, Sick Headache, Nervous Debility, and Consumption. It costs you nothing to try this wonderful remedy, as we send it free and prepaid. It has cured thousands of the above named complaints and will cure you. Write to-day. Address EGYPTIAN DRUG CO., 29 Park Row New York.



New Suits for 10 Cents

"There are Mrs. Brown's boys all out in new suits again. I never saw such a woman! They are the best dressed family in town, and anybody would think her extravagant if they didn't know that she did it all

with **Diamond Dyes.**

The boys' clothes are made from her husband's old ones, dyed over, while her own and the girls' dresses are dyed over, and many of the suits and gowns do not cost her over a dime, the price of a package of Diamond Dyes."

No experience is needed to do good work with Diamond Dyes. They make beautiful colors that are non-fading, and are prepared for all kinds of goods. Their three special Black dyes for different goods, make the blackest and fastest color known.

Direction book and 40 samples colored cloth free. WELLS, RICHARDSON & Co., Burlington, Vt. When writing to advertisers, mention *Vick's Magazine*.

A Lansingburg Miracle.

A RAILWAY MAN TALKS.

Literally half Dead, his Case Pronounced Hopeless by Prominent Physicians, A Story of Surpassing Interest Verified under Oath.

(From Troy, N. Y., Times.)

I am the most conservative reporter on the staff. I despise the chimerical, I court the real. I burrow in facts. I am from Lansingburg. We don't often get a good thing from there, but here is one. F. C. Kimball last night gave me the following:

"I am a plain straightforward man. Originally from Lansingburg, where now reside my mother, brother and sister. Several years ago I moved to Rochester. There I was in the employ of the Erie Railroad as yard and freight superintendent. After a strain to my back, caused by heavy lifting, three years ago, I developed so-called rheumatism. It was an increasing thing for two years,—at times worse, again better. I worked intermittently. If I would shut my eyes I would fall down. My feet and legs soon lost feeling—were numb. This extended to my stomach and at times to my hands. Doctors Lee and Spencer of Rochester finally pronounced my case progressive locomotor ataxia, said it was incurable, and that they could only ease my sufferings, and so I lay. Up to this time I had been sick nearly two years. Before this and for several months I was confined to my bed. Pins stuck into my limbs the full length gave me no feeling whatever; my legs seemed wooden. To pound them gave off a noise look wood. So I say, as I lay there I was *absolutely one-half dead*—dead from the waist down. There was one word written in large characters all over that sick room—C-L-A-Y. Life departed from my limbs, that word best expressed what was left. You, of course, have read of John Marshall. The reporter in describing him, described me exactly. I sent for the remedy which cured him—for Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, to Schenectady, N. Y., and tried them. I took them irregularly for two months. They didn't seem to help. All of a sudden one morning one of my legs began to prickle—seemed as though rubbed with nettles. Then, perhaps, you think I did not investigate that medicine. I began to mend fast; got some circulation, got control of my bowels and after a few weeks got out of bed and tried to stand. At last I fetched it. Could walk—now can run. And Pink Pills cured me. The doctors said I couldn't be cured, but I am. What I am now telling you is merely a reiteration of what I long ago wrote to the Dr. Williams Medicine Company at Schenectady, and my affidavit to the same is now in their hands. Here also is a letter which my mother wrote to them and to which she has made affidavit, as you see."

186 Second Ave., LANSINGBURG, N. Y.

Dear Sirs:—My son Fred has just written you a letter concerning himself to which I desire to add a few words in entire corroboration of all he has said. He has told you of his agony and his cure. The remembrance of the whole thing makes me shudder as I think of it. It is all too wonderful for me. I was resigned to his fate. Now as I look at him walking about and feeling well, with his old health and ambition returned, it does seem that he has been born again and rescued from death for a fact. Could I, therefore, say too much to you of thanks in the fullness of my gratitude? Can I well cease blessing you? Yet the intensity of my feelings make my words of thanksgiving to you seem but empty indeed; for the lost is found, and he that was dead is alive again.

Yours, HARRIET J. KIMBALL.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 5th day of April, 1893.

M. L. FANCHER,
Notary Public.

Mrs. Kimball said: "While I believe in answers to prayer and prayed earnestly for his recovery, for I am a Christian woman, and believe my prayers were answered, I do think Pink Pills were the means the Lord used to effect my son's cure. I want you to meet my daughter, Mrs. G. H. Morrison, with whom we are living here, and the Rev. George Fairlee, pastor of Westminster Church, who lives with us, and hear what they have to say." So Mrs. Kimball brought them in, and while the story as told was most complete and could be added to by nothing they might say, yet the reporter heard from the lips of the sister and their pastor, corroborative words of all that has been said. The reporter also ran across the son-in-law, Mr. G. H. Morrison, cashier of the National Bank of Troy, and spoke to him of Mr. Kimball. He is a busy man and though he could only be detained for a moment, he said: "I know nothing of the case technically. He says he was cured by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and I think that is about

the size of it."

Mr. William H. Flandreau, the druggist at 814 River St., Troy, said: "It is the most wonderful cure from locomotor ataxia—a so-called incurable disease. Mr. Kimball tells me he owes his recovery to Pink Pills entirely and I have every reason to believe him."

Pink Pills restore pale people and sallow complexions to the glow of health, and are a specific for all the troubles peculiar to the female sex, while in the case of men they effect a radical cure in all cases arising from mental worry, overwork or excesses of whatever nature."

These Pills are manufactured by the Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Schenectady, N. Y., and Brockville, Ont., and are sold in boxes (never in loose form by the dozen or hundred and the public are cautioned against numerous imitations sold in this shape) at 50 cents a box, or six boxes for \$2.50, and may be had of all druggists or direct by mail from Dr. Williams' Medicine Company from either address.

To Every Reader of Vick's Magazine.

TAKE NOTICE: We offer to each "Vick" reader a New Year's present free, and without conditions. It consists of a copy of the *Witness*, or *Sabbath Reading*, or better still, a copy of each. Are these worth sending for? When writing for these presents address

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We have made special arrangements with the publishers (in New York) of **SABBATH READING**, the Subscription Price of which is 50 cents a year, to send "Sabbath Reading" and Vick's Magazine both for one year on receipt of **60 Cents**, postage all prepaid. This is a popular combination. Show it to all your neighbors and get up a club.

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THE WITNESS is one of the best Independent and Non-Sectarian Religious Weekly papers published, and it is THE paper for all those who are not slavishly bound to any particular creed or party. IT IS AN IDEAL NEWSPAPER for the family, being wide-awake and earnest. The price of it is One Dollar a Year, and we have made special arrangements so that we can send it to old or new subscribers with Vick's Magazine both for one year for only the price of the Witness, viz: **\$1.00**. Or to any one who is at present receiving Vick's Magazine, who will remit **60 cents** to us, we will have the Weekly Witness sent, post-paid, for one year.

Club Offer with Premium.

For \$5.00 we will send "Sabbath Reading" and Vick's Magazine one year to ten different people. For \$7.50 we will send the Witness and Vick's Magazine one year to ten different people. As a club premium to either of the above, to the getter up of the club, and remitter of the money and names, we will send a choice premium of a handsome

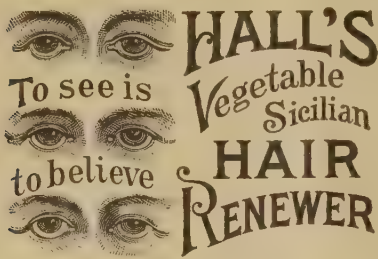
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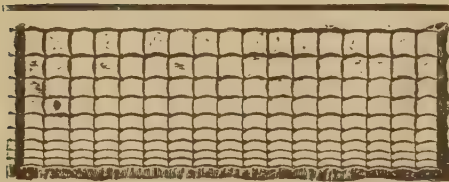
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Vegetable
Sicilian
to believe
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restores the youthful color, vitality, and growth to gray hair. Stops the hair from falling, and makes hair grow on bald heads. Cures dandruff and all scalp disorders. A fine hair dressing. The best recommended hair renewer ever made. Endorsed by our best physicians and chemists.

Buckingham's Dye for the Whiskers
gives to the beard a uniform and natural color. Easy of application. The gentlemen's favorite.

R. P. HALL & CO., Prop's,
NASHUA, N. H.

Sold by all Druggists.



After Tennyson

"Break! Break! Break!
And murder my stock," said he,
"Oh, 'twould bankrupt a saint, to utter
The thoughts that arise in me."
"Right here, if I live till next spring,
Page Woven Wire Fence you will see,
For the money I've lost on barb wire
Will never come back to me."

PAGE WOVEN WIRE FENCE CO., Adrian, Mich.



SEEDS GIVEN AWAY

FOR TRIAL. I have found that the best way to advertise good Seeds is to give away a sample for trial. If you will send me a 2-cent stamp to pay postage, I will mail free one package, your selection, of either Cabbage, Carrot, Celery, Cucumber, Lettuce, Musk or Water Melon, Onion, Parsnip, Pepper, Pumpkin, Radish, Spinach, Squash, Tomato, Turnip, or of Flower Seeds—Aster, Balsam, Oenothera, Carnation, Mignonette, Pansy, Phlox, Poppy, Sweet Peas, Zinnia, or Verbena, and one of my 1894 Catalogues. Under any circumstances do not buy your Seeds until you see it, for I can save you money. Over 200,000 people say my seeds are the cheapest and best. I have earliest vegetables on record. Discount and large prices to agents. 50 cents worth of Seeds free with \$1.00 order. Write to-day. **F. B. MILLS, Box 20, Rose Hill, N. Y.**

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PAPER FROM SUNFLOWERS.

A correspondent having sent in the following note on the use of wild sunflower plants as fiber material for paper we submitted the statement to Mr. Bernard B. Smyth, Librarian of the Kansas Academy of Science of Topeka, Kansas. Mr. Smyth being a collecting botanist of Kansas and other western plants his knowledge of the subject is undisputed. The following is the note referred to, followed by the essential portion of the letter of Mr. Smyth:

"The fiber of the wild sunflower is now used in Kansas as a material for manufacturing paper and many farmers are planting them in odd places where nothing else can be cultivated. It is said that the Mormons, when they first went across the plains to Utah, sowed sunflower seed broadcast, by direction of their leaders, all along their trail, so that those who followed them would have no difficulty in finding the way."

EDITOR VICK'S MAGAZINE:

Dear Sir—Replying to yours of 2d inst. I would say: The principal "sunflower" of Kansas is *Helianthus annuus*, a plant that grows wild and native all over the "great plain" from British America to Central Texas. It has been here from time immemorial. The Mormon story is probably a beautiful figment of the brain. Botanically there is no difference between our sunflower and that of the gardens of the East; yet there is considerable difference which you can detect at sight on acquaintance. (I will try to find some seed when I get home—out of town—and send you; and while I may not be able to do that this year, as birds feast on the seeds in November, I may be able to supply you next year.) * * * * *

Paper is made from it. The *Salina Republican* of October 27 ult. printed its entire daily edition on paper said to be made of it. I inclose a fragment. I am unable to judge of what possibilities there may be in the future for it. Experience may possibly develop something useful. Farmers do not need to plant it. It grows profusely in "gumbo" lands where scarce anything else will grow. Gumbo soil is a dense black alluvium, with less than 25 per cent. of sand, flat, covered with water in early spring, too wet and sticky to plow; and baked hard and cracked in summer, too hard and tenacious to plow. Such lands (and waters) kill grasses largely, but the sunflower seeds are covered just deep enough and at the right time for germination. Cockle burs (*Xanthium strumarium*) may also grow freely there; but the sunflower soon overshadows them and eventually kills them out.

The discovery that paper may be made of sunflowers is an important one; but one should not be carried away with that idea alone. We have many valuable fibrous plants here, chief among which may be mentioned *Abutilon avicennae*, which grows here eight or ten feet high; *Yucca augustifolia*, *Callirhoe involucrata*, etc., all of which you know. These are all rank weeds. * * * * *

Very truly yours,

BERNARD B. SMYTH.

The specimen of paper received is very little, if any, better than ordinary brown straw wrapping paper. A second letter from Mr. Smyth enclosed several heads of the dry sunflower and a few seeds. The seeds are very much smaller than those of the common cultivated sunflower and the disk of the heads only two inches or less

in diameter. The following additional information about the plant is also important.

"This sunflower very seldom has only one head to a stem. No matter how close they grow they are usually branched and have, say, twenty or more heads. One plant in my back yard last year, under cultivation, had 357 heads, nearly all a little larger than the one I inclose. I stated yesterday that the sunflower grows naturally in gumbo lands. I should have added that it grows in any broken land, even up to 95 per cent. sand; but it grows most vigorously in a rich moist (not wet) loam."

Thus it appears that the wild sunflower has not entered into commerce as a paper fiber plant, but has been tried and paper made from it, as it has from many other plants. There is no difficulty in finding paper fiber plants, but to find such that can be used economically is a far different question. Gossipy items of many kinds in relation to plants, having in them a grain of truth and a great deal of falsehood, are everywhere afloat through the papers which are intended to excite the wonder of those ignorant on plant subjects. When such items cause surprise it should be remembered that they should be taken with quite as large a grain of salt as the numerous cures of quack medicines so freely advertised in the press.

AS TO CHRYSANTHEMUMS.

Floral Persiflage.

From the Chicago Inter Ocean.

"Hello," remarked the rose in the florist's window to the yellow chrysanthemum, "can I lend you fifteen cents for a shave?"

Why He Discarded Them.

From the Detroit Tribune.

"What's the matter, Cholly, that you aren't wearing a chrysanthemum any more?"

"Why, don't you know, those large ones that cost 60 cents early in the season are now hawked about at that much per dozen, deah boy."

From the Philadelphia Record.

A Figure of Speech.

Muggins (during the post-prandial exercises)—Spouter is the most flowery talker I ever heard.

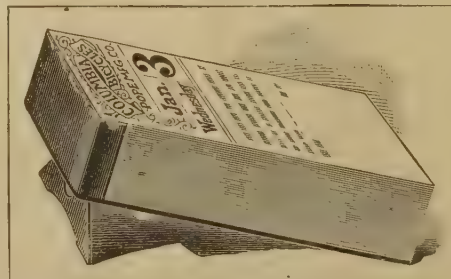
Huggins—Yes, a perfect chrysanthemum of speech.

APHIS ON LONGIFLORUM LILIES.—A correspondent of the *American Florist* says: "There is no plant more troubled with aphis than the longiflorum lilies and when they are about one foot high is the worst time for them. The greenfly gets away down in the heart of them and continual smoking scarcely dislodges these little pests after they have once got a foothold. Before you see any greenfly at all give them a syringing of weak tobacco water. It will go far towards preventing a crop of aphis from troubling your Easter crop."

DO NOT MISS IT.

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POPE MFG. CO., 221 Columbus Ave., Boston, Mass.

THE CALIFORNIA POPPY.

It was a fortunate and yet a very natural choice for Californians in adopting the *eschscholtzia* as the State flower. Growing as it does in great masses in most parts of their State, and lighting up the landscape with its stored up sunshine, it is one of the most conspicuous plants of the Pacific flora. It must be a source of satisfaction to our Western friends to know that their emblematic flower is raised in the gardens of the whole civilized world. The beauty of the foliage and flowers of this plant is so well defined that it cannot well be spared from any border of annuals. The finely-cut grayish-green foliage is attractive in itself, and the large bright flowers look as if they might have been fashioned out of sunbeams.

The plants grown in masses are strikingly effective and pleasing. They grow only to a foot in height and produce their flowers in great profusion. The color of the flower is a clear canary yellow. The plants grow quickly from seeds sown in early spring in the open ground, but it is still better to sow the seeds in autumn, say late in September, and they will then be dormant until spring and start to grow as soon as the frost is gone and the soil begins to warm, and the plants will be much earlier than those from seeds sown in the spring. In mild climates the plant is perennial. It is a good edging or border plant, and can be used to advantage sometimes in ribbon beds and also in a bed by itself without any other plants. The plants will continue to bloom for a long season if given a little attention by removing the seed pods as soon as the petals fall and allowing none to produce seeds, as this effort exhausts the plant and checks the blooming. When the pods are systematically removed the plants retain their vigor, make new branches and produce their bloom a long time.

Eschscholtzia crocea is very similar to *E. Californica* in habit and flower except that it is of a handsome shade of saffron or orange.

E. crocea alba has flowers of a cream color.

Seedsmen have succeeded by successive selections in fixing strains of several interesting varieties of both *C. Californica* and *C. crocea*.

Of *Californica* there is now the variety *alba*, with whitish flowers; *albo-rosea*, white with a rosy tint; *aurantiaca*, golden yellow; *carminea*, a large rose-colored flower.

Of *C. crocea* there is a double flowered variety of the same color as the species; a double white flower; *striata*, orange striped with lighter shade; *Mandarin*, a deep orange; and *tenuifolia*, a variety with the leaves very finely divided, having pale yellow flowers.

All these varieties are pretty and interesting.

THE LANTANA.

WHY isn't the lantana more often used as a bedding plant in the place of the overdone geranium? Not that we would plant the geranium less, but other bedding plants more, and of these the lantana is certainly among the very best. To be sure it likes a sunny location and rich soil, but a setting to its liking is due to any plant, and this particular one repays its owner by growing like a weed, tall, bushy and many-branched, or if cumbent-growing, carpeting the ground with a spreading mat of luxurious foliage. More than that, it blooms early, and, if not allowed to exhaust itself in seed bearing, is still covered with a profusion of pretty verberna-like flowers at the coming of frost. The trying summer heat and winds have no effect upon it, and it withstands

drouth better than most bedding plants. What more can be asked?

Every one admires the pretty clustered bloom. The artist in color is particularly pleased with them, for few flowers show such rich, vivid or peculiar hues as the lantana; and the peculiarity many varieties have of changing color, such as from lilac to pink, orange to crimson, chrome-yellow to salmon, etc., thus giving the effect of

several varieties grown on the same bush, is most attractive. Whatever the color, white, lemon, pink, red, vermilion, orange-red, or crimson, the color is never dull, muddy, or unpleasant. With their effective setting of roughly-netted leaves they are especially charming in small bouquets or flower baskets, either by themselves or in conjunction with other flowers.

But, says someone, "how they smell!" Ah,



ESCHSCHOLTZIA CALIFORNICA.

there we have it. Flower, leaf or branch, the whole plant is permeated with an odor all its own, a pungent perfume so unmistakable that once smelled it will never be forgotten, and never confounded with that of any other plant.

"That sickening smell!" says one; "that intolerable stink," says another; while still another talks of "that delicious scent," or that "pleasant fragrance." There is no accounting for tastes. Some of my own family grow nearly sick at a whiff of its breath, while to me it is sweeter than any tuberose or scented geranium. I never pass a bed of it without giving a leaf a pinch, the better to inhale its pleasant odor. A new lantana, Nellie Bly, has recently been introduced. It is white with a lemon eye, changing to snowy white, and of a sweet, spicy fragrance. I have never tried it, for the older sorts, with their characteristic odor, are good enough for me, but to those who dislike the ordinary lantana's smell this new sort will prove a boon, the more so as it promises to be the forerunner of a new type.

LORA S. LAMANCE.
Pineville, Mo.

THE MAGIC BELL.

The old year is dead, and hoary-haired time
High in the bellry, is tolling his knell
From the phantom rim of a magic bell,
And the world is swayed by its mystic chime.

For earth is the ponderous tongue that swings
In the tower of time. The cathedral dim
Is the universe, and the bell's huge rim
Is the ether blue as it rings and rings.

The chimes are the passions that sway men's souls—
That tempt and inspire them. The thought, the
deed,

On this New Year's eve from the earth dross freed,
In one mighty vibration upward rolls;
And hushed are the voices around the throne,
As the Great Creator receives His own.

—Rose Hartwick Thorpe.

NICOTIANA DECURRENS.

I HOPE every flower lover has at least one plant of *Nicotiana decurrens* for winter blooming; anything more lovely and desirable it would be difficult to find. My plant is nearly two years old and grows more beautiful with age. It was raised from seed in the autumn, but did not flower the first winter as it was frozen down to the ground three or four times in the window box; each time, however, it began almost immediately to throw up its fresh green leaves, and in April it was a lovely mass of greenery and crowned with a large cluster of buds. It was then lifted carefully into a small pail where it still remains. During May, June and July it bore many of the sweet starry blossoms of pure white; then the flower stems having grown very tall, it was cut down quite severely.

In October it was loaded with blossoms again, and during the cold dull days they remain open all day. This time it has been flowering profusely for nearly two months and has now two tall stems of blooms in full flower, and two new clusters of buds have just come to the light. One of the flowering stems has already borne twenty-four flowers, and still has buds on it. The plant itself remains dwarf, but the flower stem grows taller with each flower that blooms, and in the evening, when the plant is turned so that the flowers face in the room, they look like lovely pale stars floating in the air. Their perfume is exquisite at night, although barely perceptible in the daytime. Jarring the plant ever so slightly causes the flowers to throw out a heavier wave of sweetness. The blossoms are quite large and remain perfect a long time. My plant has always had a sunny window and plenty of water, but no other care. MRS. S. H. SNIDER.

BRILLIANT POPPY.

AFTER having watched in vain a good many months for a glowing description of the beautiful Brilliant poppies in the many interesting letters of Vick's Magazine, I thought I would give my experience. A year ago last spring I sent for a packet of Vick's Brilliant poppy seed. The spring was late, also very wet, and about half of the seed washed away after I sowed it. Let me say right here it was the first poppy seed I ever sowed, for until I received Vick's Floral Guide with those enchanting poppies on the back cover, I had never seen any I would care to bother with. I think every seed that was left in the ground grew and flourished well, for about the first part of June they

were all ready to bloom, and such blossoms of every color, pink of every shade, purple ones, dark red ones, and large white ones that looked like a snowball sprinkled with ruby dust; these were admired the most of all. I sent a bouquet of them to an ice cream festival as late as the middle of July, and the next day had numerous callers to see my asters. I told them I had not any yet in bloom, but as the bed of Brilliant poppies came in view they found there the flowers they were in quest of. I must say the poppies on the back of that Guide were not as large as mine were, so you see Vick didn't exaggerate as I thought he did. Last spring I sowed another bed of them four feet wide and sixteen feet long about the first of May. They did not blossom so early as those that were self-sown, but they blossomed until the frost killed them in October. Let every reader go and do likewise.

Rowen, Ia.

PRIMROSE.

GOUNOD, THE FRENCH COMPOSER.—Since the death of this great musician many interesting notes relating to him are appearing. Here is one. He loved his pipe dearly. In this connection the following words of his have an interesting bearing on tobacco smoking and its effects: I admit sincerely the truth of Tolstoi's opinion in all that has to do with the intellectual faculties. I think that the habit of using tobacco produces a sluggishness of these faculties, that this sluggishness follows the habit, and by abuse may reach even to atrophy. I am not so sure that it could positively result in the annihilation of conscience, whose witness is too startling to undergo so easily an eclipse so disastrous. I say conscience, be it noted; I do not say will. Conscience is a Divine decree; will is a human energy. The latter can be weakened by abuse of the organs; the former, however, seems to me quite beyond all effect of the sort, because it creates the responsibility without which man ceases to be amenable. I have smoked a great deal. I do not recall that it has ever modified the judgment of my conscience on the morality of my acts.—*From Character Sketch of Gounod, in the December Review of Reviews.*

UNFRUITFUL PEAR TREES.—The causes affecting the fruitfulness of pears and apples have been made the subject of further study. The important discovery, made incidentally while investigating the effects of the transmission of disease germs through the flowers by bees and other insects, that many of our common varieties of pears are incapable of self-fertilization, was pointed out last year. At the same time attention was also called to the fact that this discovery explained why large blocks of single varieties of pears often failed to bear satisfactory crops, even though the flowers were abundant and all other conditions excepting those insuring cross-fertilization were present. In order to obtain additional evidence on this point, the experiments made in 1892 were repeated the past season, the work being carried on at Rochester, N. Y., and Parry, N. J. The results of this work verify the conclusions obtained in previous years, showing that to insure the highest fruitfulness pear and apple orchards should consist of mixed varieties. Where large blocks of pears have failed to fruit through lack of cross-fertilization the trouble may be remedied by top-grafting with a different variety to supply the necessary pollen.—*From the Report of the Secretary of Agriculture.*

BARN-YARD MANURE.—Barn-yard manure is ordinarily looked upon as a general and complete manure, and in the sense of supplying the most needed elements of plant food such is true. Yet it seldom, if ever, contains these plant food ingredients in the proportions which have been found to give the best results. Farm-yard manure contains (according to the animal and food consumed) from four to eight per cent. of nitrogen, two to four per cent. of phosphoric acid, and three to six per cent. of potash; practically twice as much nitrogen as phosphoric acid, and considerably more than of potash. This is too nitrogenous for a well balanced fertilizer, and any one using barn-yard manure does well, therefore, to use acid phosphate and potash salts in addition. Farm manures usually deficient in potash, such as those produced from corn meal, silage and stover, and hay from the grasses generally, and especially when fed with nitrogenous food, should always be applied in conjunction with fertilizers containing larger amounts of potash and phosphoric acid. A still better plan is to sprinkle these materials in the stable and upon the dung heap, and thus a double benefit is obtained by preventing the escape of ammonia from the manure. Potash salts are especially soluble in this respect, and when so used no leaching must under any circumstances be allowed as they will be easily washed out of the pile to the detriment of the manure.

PATTI'S PRAISE.—Writing to a friend in London Mme. Patti says: "You ought to see how lovely my rooms look with all the exquisite flowers that my friends here send me. I do believe that the American flowers are the loveliest in the world, especially the roses that are called 'American Beauties;' I never saw anything in all Europe to equal them."

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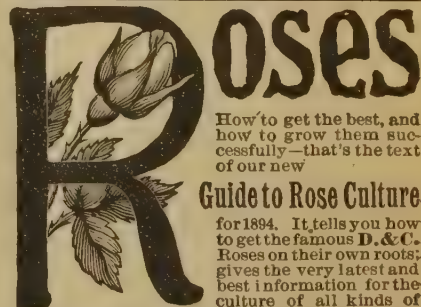
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NEW YEAR'S NOTES.

What a beautiful white world!

How pure everything looks out of doors! If we look within, do we get the same suggestion of purity?

Snow is like charity—it covers so much that the world doesn't like to have seen. It makes some dark spots really beautiful. If we could only feel that all was pure that seems so!

The cold winter nights, when the wind howls across the hills like a pack of wolves on a raid of destruction, and we hear the snow beating sharply against the pane, home seems the brightest, best spot on earth to us. I think we ought to be glad that we have winter, because it emphasizes the comforts of home so strongly.

And then, as at no other time, we appreciate the flowers in the window. They seem to suddenly take on a charm and beauty we have not seen in them before, and we feel that home would not be what it ought to be without them. And this is as it ought to be. Flowers should be considered one of the necessary things of life.

A window full of flowers, in winter, is as good as a course of lectures to him who keeps his eyes and heart open. They are all the time preaching little, silent, eloquent sermons to us. They concentrate our attention on a bit of summer brightness and we come to feel that if a fragment of the great whole can afford so much pleasure, we have but feebly appreciated the wealth of beauty and brightness God gives to us yearly.

Make friends with your plants. Don't be content with simply knowing their names and just as little about their requirements as will enable you to keep them alive. Be on intimate terms with them. That's the only way to enjoy them.

Some persons can make a plant grow under most unfavorable conditions. Some persons can't make them grow at all. These see the "luck" which the others have and say that "they've got the knack of it." As if there was some great secret about it! There's no "knack" about successful flower-growing. Those who succeed with them understand the plants' requirements and meet them as fully as possible, simply because their love for them would not permit them to do otherwise. The plants understand, and respond. Therein lies all the "knack!"

If one undertakes to grow plants merely because it is "the style" to have them, the chances are that they won't grow. Why? Because it is undertaken just as I used to go at the problems in arithmetic when I was a boy, this or that is done because such are the instructions, without understanding why they are so. One must be governed by intelligent judgment which is acquired only by the study of plants, and that must be prompted by a love for them. Those who want plants in their parlors simply because they help to "furnish" them ought to be obliged to use only "artificial" ones.

The days grow longer,

The sun grows stronger,

The plants in the windows—how they grow!

They seem to listen,—

Their bright eyes glisten,

And what they're hearing I think I know,—

The spring that's coming,

The brown bees' humming,

The sweet, warm wind of an April day.

While snows are drifting

The scene is shifting,—

The grim old winter's not long to stay!

The catalogues are coming! It's almost like going into a flower garden to look them over. One wonders what the plant-men will do next to add to their attractions. Something whispers to me that it might be well if they would leave out a little—or a good deal—of color from the covers, and some superlative degree adjectives from the descriptions, and not draw quite so heavily on their stock of imagination.

But what delightfully perplexing things some of them are! They make us want all the flowers they describe and picture so glowingly, and we know we can have but a few of them. But those few—which shall they be? Ah, there's the rub! It's a case where one feels like quoting "How happy could I be with either
Were 't'other dear charmer away!"

In buying seed, always aim to get the best. Poor seed is cheap at any price. The best is always the cheapest. Perhaps you've heard that before, but it will do no harm to repeat it in this connection.

I hope you are going to invest in a plant of the new anemone, Whirlwind. Few plants have given better satisfaction than the well known old Honorine Jobert, from which this is a seedling crossed with the pink variety. The old variety was single, while this is double. For cemetery use it will prove very valuable on account of its late-blooming habit.

Have you noticed how the alders glow like coals of fire as they lift their scarlet spikes of fruit along the streams and in the edges of the swamps? Here is a hint for the winter landscape man to make use of.

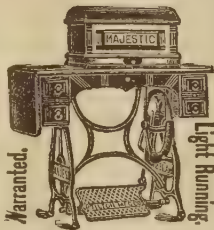
Along with the flowers in the window, to make the winter evenings thoroughly enjoyable, you should provide a liberal quantity of good literature. Don't forget this.

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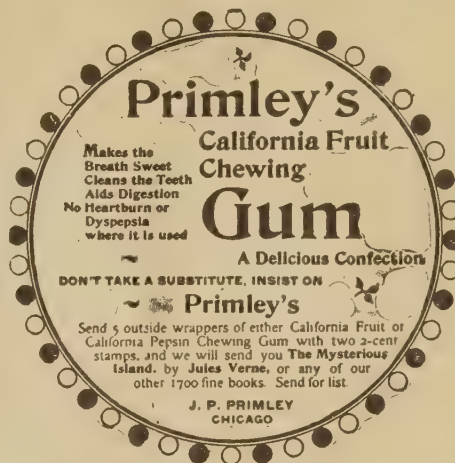
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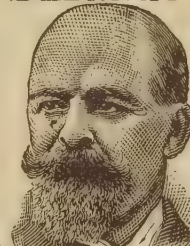
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NOTES FROM THE STATIONS.

The substance of some of the following notes may have already appeared in our pages the last year, but a brief repetition of them here may be of use.

Prunus Simonii.—At the Cornell Station this has been found to be a handsome ornamental tree, blooming early and bearing glowing fruits, which make it a conspicuous object; as a fruit it is worthless. The flavor is very disagreeable, being mawkish, bitter, and leaving a pronounced bitter almond taste in the mouth. The tree is as hardy as the common varieties of plums; its early blooming makes it liable to be caught by late frosts.

Japan Wineberry.—As grown at the Station (Cornell) the fruits were very small—as raspberries go—and the pips were so little connected that the fruit crumbled when picked. The fruit was cherry red, acrid, and with little pronounced flavor. It has little either in size, appearance or quality to recommend it. Whoever can raise the raspberry has no use for the wineberry as a fruit. In Ohio it has been reported as winter-killing. The Station reports it a good ornamental shrub suitable for some places. The Michigan Station reports the wineberry as valuable only as a curiosity.

Crandall Currant.—The Cornell Station reports favorably on this fruit; the plant being "thrifty, hardy and productive." The fruits are grown in short open clusters and it is necessary to pick them singly. "To some people the fruit is disagreeable, and it has been called a medicinal flavor, but there are others—the writer included—who are fond of them, even to eat from the hand." Our own experience with it is that it cannot be compared with the black currant, which is far superior to it.

Dwarf Juneberry.—This fruit is very favorably noticed, especially the variety known as Success which was first brought to notice by H. S. Van Deman. "The fruit ripens here with the early currants and lasts nearly as long as the currants. Last year the fruits were picked July 18. The berries closely resemble huckleberries, as well in flavor as in appearance. They are, however, more juicy and palatable than huckleberries."

Tomatoes.—The Maine Station reports in regard to tomatoes that "without exception the average number of fruits and the average weight of the product per plant was in direct ratio with the earliness of setting, a direct confirmation of results obtained last year. The average weight of individual fruits was not essentially different in the first two settings, but was decidedly less in the last lot."

The importance of the early setting of tomato plants is thus so fully established that no successful cultivator can afford to disregard it. To raise the plants and harden them off preparatory for very early setting, and to be ready to give protection in emergency, such as the prospect of a frost, must be the aim of all large tomato growers.

Egg Plants.—Egg plants can be successfully raised in Maine. "The most important requisites are early sowing, vigorous plants, late transplanting to the field, warm, rich soil, thorough cultivation, and constant watchfulness of the po-

tato beetle." The best varieties for that region are Early Dwarf Purple, Early Long Purple, Long White and possibly Black Pekin.

Lichens on Fruit Trees.—The *Journal of Mycology* gives an account of the experiments of M. B. Waite, with fungicides for the removal of lichens from pear trees. The author found, while spraying trees for a twig disease, that applications of Bordeaux mixture cleaned the trees of their foliaceous and crustaceous lichens. The stronger formula is advised where the trees can be sprayed. The application with a brush of a very strong solution is advised where lichens are abundant on small trees.

IN THE FLOWER GARDEN.—Success in gardening depends on anticipating by weeks and months the operations which are to be performed. This is the time to prepare for spring; for instance, if a bed of pansies is wanted the seed should be sown in a pan, pot, or flat box at the earliest opportunity. They require some time to germinate and the young plants are at first slow of growth, and to be of a size for early planting out and spring blooming they will need all the intervening time. Verbena seed should also be planted now, and other kinds will rapidly demand attention.

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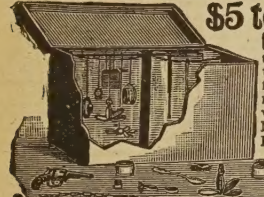
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ROSES NEEDING HELP.—Roses under glass which have bloomed and been carried along for another crop of flowers will need an application of manure to enable them to bloom well again. John N. May, in the *American Florist*, advises for the purpose clean sheep manure or well decomposed cow manure, a dressing "one-half to three-quarters of an inch spread evenly over the surface." He further adds: "Nitrate of soda also is considered valuable in such cases. The best means I have ever yet found for applying nitrate of soda is to take a very fine, dry soil, screen through one-quarter inch mesh five parts to one part of nitrate of soda; or in other words take about five shovelfuls of fine soil and a small shovelful of nitrate of soda. This should be enough to cover five or six hundred square feet after being thoroughly mixed up together; the watering gradually dissolves the nitrate of soda and the roots get the benefit of it without the possibility of giving too much. The trouble with giving them too much is that it is apt to burn the roots and do more injury than good. Such a dressing as above can be applied every four weeks with considerable benefit if the plants are in vigorous healthy growing condition. Some use it as a liquid but I prefer the above method as being more sure of getting it in lighter doses, so to speak, or, in other words, a small portion for each meal rather than give an over quantity at one time."

BIG JOB LOT OF SILK REMNANTS FOR CRAZY PATCH-WORK.

 OWING to the hard times there has been dumped on the market an extra big lot of odd pieces of silk and satin that are just what ladies want for crazy patch-work. We were fortunate in securing them cheap, and will give one of our special PANIC PACKAGES to any one sending 10c. for a three months' subscription to COMFORT, the Prize Story Magazine. Three lots and an elegant piece of SILK PLUSH contain 36 square inches, together with five skeins of elegant embroidery silk, all different bright colors, all for 25c. postpaid; three 25c. lots for 65c., five for \$1.00.

A Cute Foot-Rest FREE. Useful Ornaments are sought after all seasons of the year. People do not realize the quantities of goodsthat are sold through the mails. Inventors are daily trying to get up something to sell by mail that will be pretty, useful, and cheap. A pretty foot-rest could never be obtained at a low price before (they sell for \$1.00 each at the stores), but by getting up something that is turned out by machines in pretty colored durable goods, to be filled with cotton or any cheap or cast-off substance and then sewed up, we can now give a premium that will be welcome in every room in all the homes from Maine to California. It comes in the shape of a handsome Spaniel Bow-Wow, lying down, size about 8x12 inches, and can always be placed for an ornament when not in use by grandma or yourself or company as a Foot Rest. It will create untold merriment when lying in front of the fire, it is as life-like in shape and color. Although entirely new, 57,396 have already been sold, and millions more will be in use before many months. Agents will find them great sellers, and should order at least a dozen to start with. To introduce, we will send a sample postpaid to any one sending 13c. for a three months' subscription to COMFORT. Two Rests and COMFORT 6 months for 25c.; five for 50c., one dozen, \$1.00; one Rest and 10c. lot Remnants, 20c.; one Rest and 25c. lot Remnants, 32c. Address, COMFORT PUB. CO., Box 119, Augusta, Me.

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I wish to tell you of my experiment with plants. I have a room with two south windows exposed to the direct rays of the sun (the room is heated by an open wood fire), across one window I have two shelves, one two feet above the other, on these I keep my plants. When it is very cold so as to be in danger of freezing I remove the plants to a box lined with several thicknesses of newspaper and placed under the window, and cover the box with a blanket.

About the middle of August I placed three water hyacinths in a small tub holding about four gallons of water. They have increased till the tub is full of plants, but they have not bloomed. I would like to know when they will bloom. Will they bloom at all it allowed to increase plants at will? Would it be better to thin out to one or two plants and keep the new ones cut off? It is a beautiful mass of green, but I would like to see the bloom. I. P. F.

Sweet Water, Tex.

The water hyacinth will no doubt come into bloom with the warm weather of spring. Keep it this winter on the top shelf of the window where it will have the most heat. It will not be necessary to remove a portion of the young plants. They will probably bloom all the more freely for the crowding and eventually will cease to multiply by offsets.

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Potash Salts produce a healthy and strong growth in plants, increasing their power to resist rot, disease and winter killing. Potash insures

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Besides curing all the diseases here listed, the electric force is so applied to all important organs as to keep the body at a uniform temperature, Alleviate the effects of Overwork, Worry and Want of Exercise, to Prevent Chills, Assist Digestion and Improve Nutrition, to Restore Exhausted Nerve and Brain Force, to give Tone to Every Nerve, Muscle and Organ, and thus promote Good Health and Strength.

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Which are so accurately adjusted that they can be worn by a child or an adult, and produce no harmful shock to the most debilitated body. They are simple in construction, very comfortable, and can be worn with any costume, loose or close fitting, without being noticeable.

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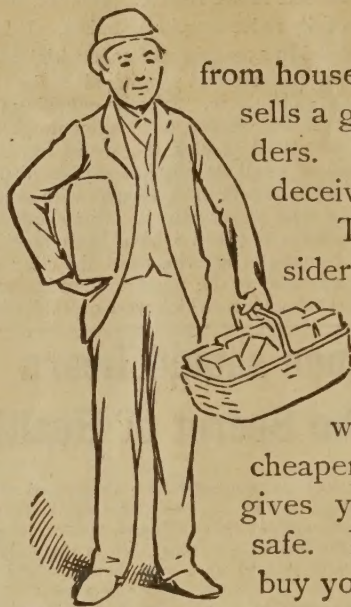
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We want to cure every reader of this advertisement who suffers from any disease of any nature. We would rather lose many sales than fail to cure a single case.

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from house to house, with "prizes" thrown in, sells a good many pretty poor washing-powders. Don't let these worthless prizes deceive you.

They don't amount to anything. Consider their value if you bought them in the regular way, and compare this with the value of ruined linens, paints, etc., that you risk with these washing-powders. There's nothing cheaper to wash with than Pearlina. That gives you easy washing that is absolutely safe. You would better use Pearlina, and buy your own prizes. You'd save money.

GRAY HAIR OR WHISKERS restored to perfectly natural color by using **VAN'S MEXICAN HAIR RESTORATIVE**. It removes all dandruff; stops hair from falling out and cures all disease of the scalp. It is no dye, and is warranted absolutely harmless. Money refunded if it does not do every thing claimed for it. Sent to any address on receipt of price, \$1.00 per bottle. Full information free. Agents wanted. **ALLEN & CO.,** 312 Inter Ocean Building, Chicago, Ill.



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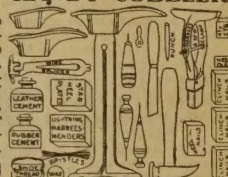
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The demand for the seed last year was so great that we were obliged to return over 3000 orders, our supply having been exhausted. We have more than three times the stock we had last year, and will supply the seed as long as they last. First come first served.

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The American Wonder Potato.

Large, White and Solid. Uniform, Smooth and Handsome.

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